

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b)**

A method and apparatus for rapid channel change in a personal video recorder (PVR). Immediately after a channel change command is received, the PVR directs video directly to its output for display on a television display, bypassing the normal process of storing the video to the hard disk drive and then retrieving the video for display. This permits channel change speed to be limited only by the speed that a tuner's channel can be changed and not by the speed of the disk drive and associated processes for storage and retrieval of programming from the new channel. Output from the hard disk drive is used when special effects such as live pause are desired.